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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing

amendments and the following remarks.

As a result of the present amendment, claims 1-14, 16, 21, 23 and 24 are pending.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 13 and 14 have been amended, and claims 19 and 22 have been canceled

without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants submit that the amendments to claim 4 were

made only to improve form and do not change the scope of the claim.

Rejection of Claims 1, 5, 9, 13-14, 16, 19, 21-22 and 24

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 9, 13-14, 16, 19,

21-22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No.

6,418,411 to Gong in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,670 to Kosanovic. Applicants traverse

the rejection of claim 22, the features of which were incorporated into claim 1. Applicants

canceled claims 19 and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby, making the rejection of

claims 19 and 22 moot, Therefore, Applicant respectfully request that the rejection of claims

19 and 22 be withdrawn. Applicants submit that the amended independent claims obviate the

rejection.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method of dynamic re-configurable

speech recognition. The method includes, among other things, adjusting the periodic time

(for determining parameters of a background model during a received voice request) based, at

least in part, on determined changes in sampled noise information, wherein the adjusting of

the periodic time further includes increasing the periodic time when successive changes in

sampled noise information do not exceed a threshold value. On page 5 of the Office Action,

with respect to claim 22, the Examiner alleged that Kosanovic, at col. 4, lines 20-26,

discloses or suggests this feature. Applicants disagree.

Kosanovic, at col. 4, lines 9-26, discloses:

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FIG. 2 illustrates a second exemplary plot of the calculated ebmin for a set of
thirteen signal blocks and the updated estimate of background noise, En. As
illustrated in FIG. 1, the estimated background noise, En, will not vary as
widely as the measured minimum energy, ebmin, of the signal blocks. At
SB_7, the measured minimum energy exceeds the Max threshold and therefore
the En is not updated. At each SB (1, 2, 5, 6, 11) where the measured $ebmin_{[k]}$
exceeds the previous $ebmin_{[k-1]}$ and is below Max, the En is updated half the
difference between $ebmin_{[k]}$ and the measured $ebmin_{[k-1]}$ for the preceding
$SB_{[k-1]}$. When the measured $ebmin_{[k]}$ is less than the previous $ebmin_{[k-1]}$
(points 3, 4, 9, 10 and 12), En is updated down to the measured $ebmin_{[k]}$ of the
$SB_{[k]}$ to ensure that the estimated background energy level is at a minimum so
that low voice is not mistakenly classified as background noise.
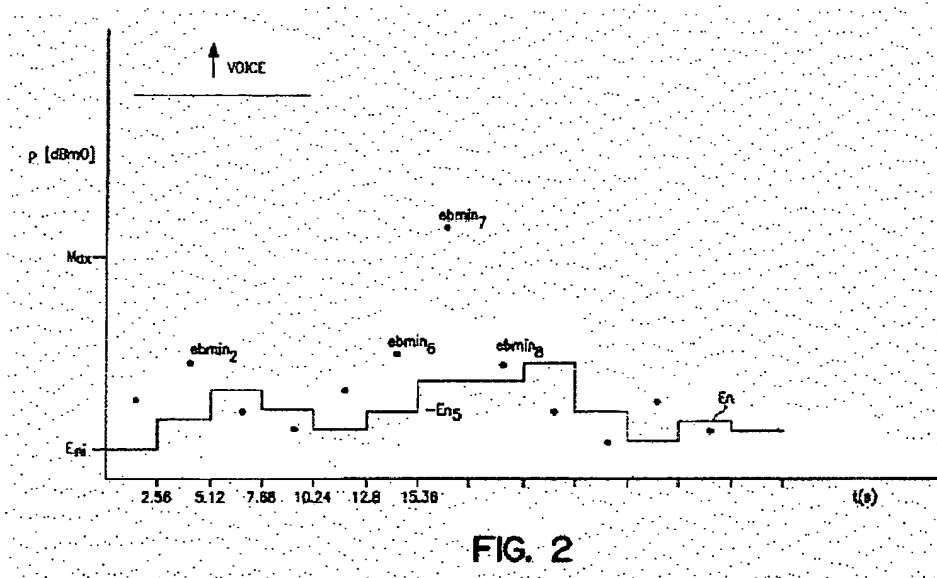

FIG. 2

Thus, Fig. 2 of <u>Kosanovic</u> discloses an exemplary plot of the lowest minimum

energy level (ebmin) calculated for a set of signal blocks and an updated estimate of

signal noise. Estimated background noise, En, does not vary as much as ebmin of the

signal blocks. When the measured $ebmin_{[k]}$ exceeds the previous $ebmin_{[k-1]}$ and is

below Max (at each of SB (1, 2, 5, 6, 11)), En is updated by half the difference

between $ebmin_{[k]}$ and the measured $ebmin_{[k-1]}$ for signal block $SB_{[k-1]}$. On the other

hand, when the measured $ebmin_{[k]}$ is less than the previous $ebmin_{[k-1]}$ (points 3, 4, 9,

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10 and 12) En is updated down to the measured $ebmin_{[k]}$ of signal block $SB_{[k]}$. This

ensures that low voice is not mistaken as background noise.

Applicants submit that the above cited portion of Kosanovic discusses how to

adjust the estimated background noise, En, based on a comparison of minimum

measured energy for a signal block compared to a minimum measured energy level

for a previous signal block. Kosanovic is completely devoid of any disclosure or

suggestion of increasing the periodic time (for determining parameters of a

background model during a received voice request) when successive changes in

sampled noise information do not exceed a threshold value, as required by amended

claim 1. Gong also fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that amended

independent claim 1 is patentable over Gong in view of Kosanovic and respectfully

request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Amended independent claims 5, 9, 13 and 14 recite a feature similar to the

previously discussed feature of claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 5,

9, 13 and 14 are patentable over Gong in view of Kosanovic for reasons similar to

those provided with respect to claim 1. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request

that the rejection of claims 5, 9, 13 and 14 be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 16, 21 and 24 depend either from claim 1 or claim 5 and are

patentable over Gong in view of Kosanovic for the reasons discussed above with

respect to claim 1 or claim 5. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the

rejection of claims 16, 21 and 24 be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12 and 23

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12 and 23

under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gong in view of Kosanovic, and

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further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,008,941 to Sejnoha. Applicants submit that amended

claims 1, 5 and 9 obviate the rejection.

Amended independent claims 1, 5 and 9 are patentable over Gong in view of

Kosanovic for at least the reasons discussed above. Applicants submit that Sejnoha fails to

satisfy the deficiencies of Gong and Kosanovic. Therefore, amended independent claims 1, 5

and 9 are patentable over Gong, Kosanovic and Sejnoha. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12 and 23

depend from one of claims 1, 5 or 9 and are patentable over Gong, Kosanovic and Sejnoha

for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claims 1, 5 and 9. Therefore, Applicants

respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12 and 23 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed all rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject

application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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